

X - R A Y O B S E R V A T O R Y



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New Frontiers in Astronomy

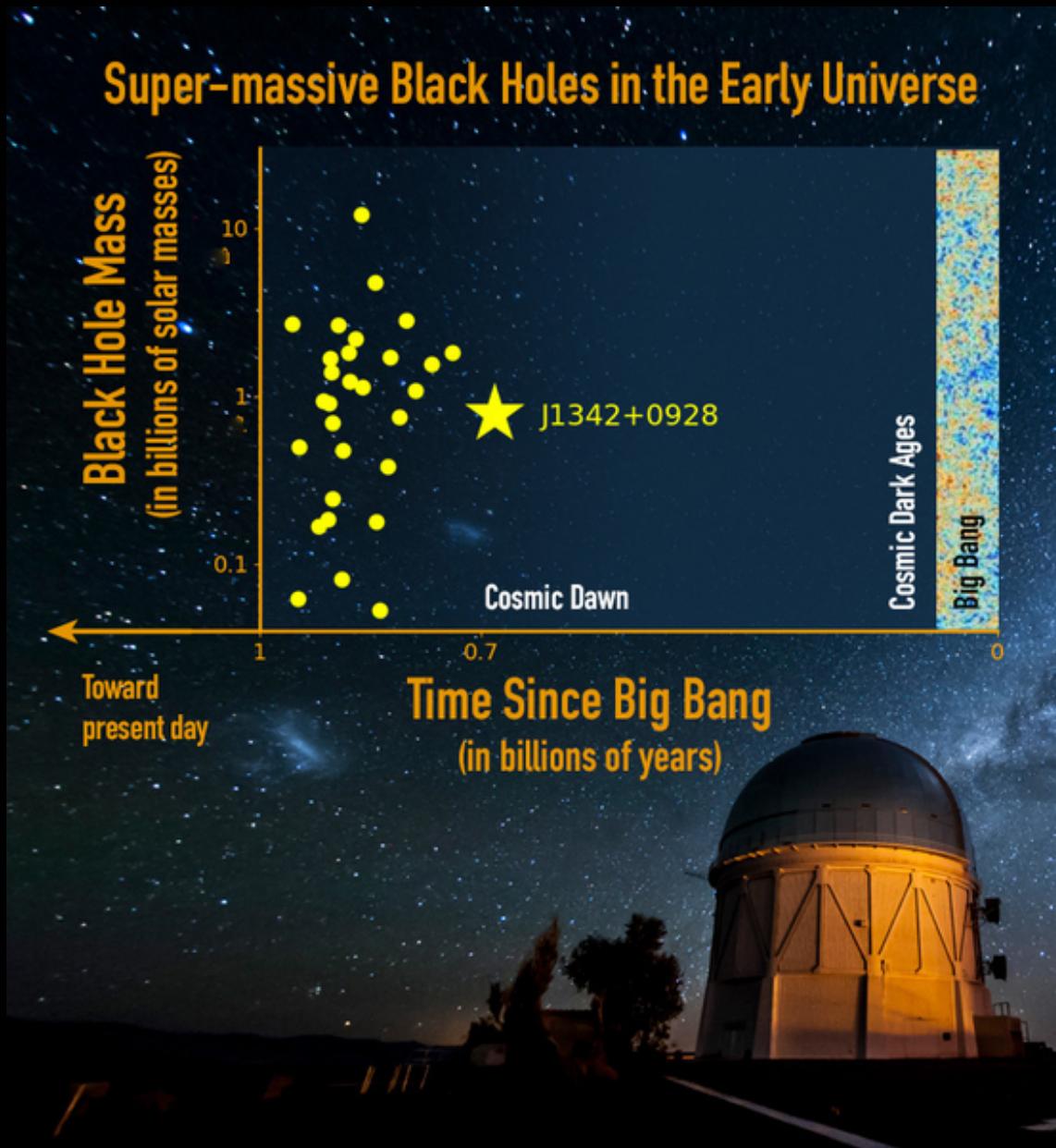
What are the most important high energy astrophysics questions in the 2020's?

What are the critical science questions across astrophysics to be addressed in the following decades?

New Record Breaking Quasars

J1342+0928; $z=7.54$; 800 million M_{\odot} !

Image credit: Jinyi Yang/JA; Reidar Hahn/Fermilab;
M. Newhouse/NOAO/AURA/NSF



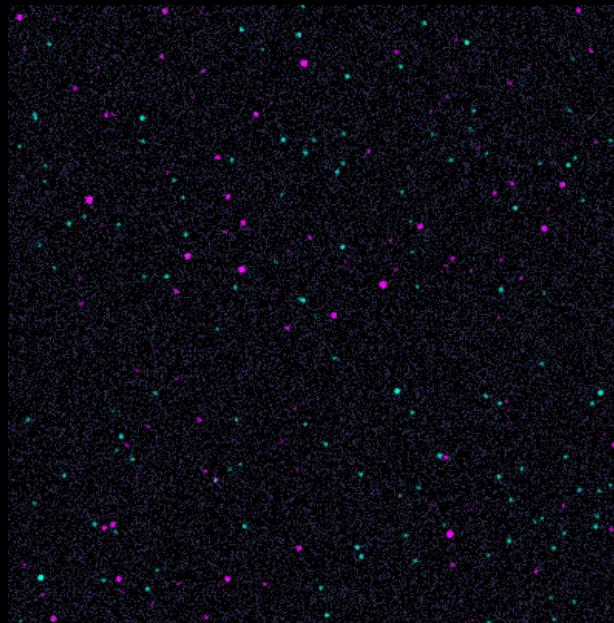
The Dawn of Black Holes

Simulated 2'×2' deep fields:

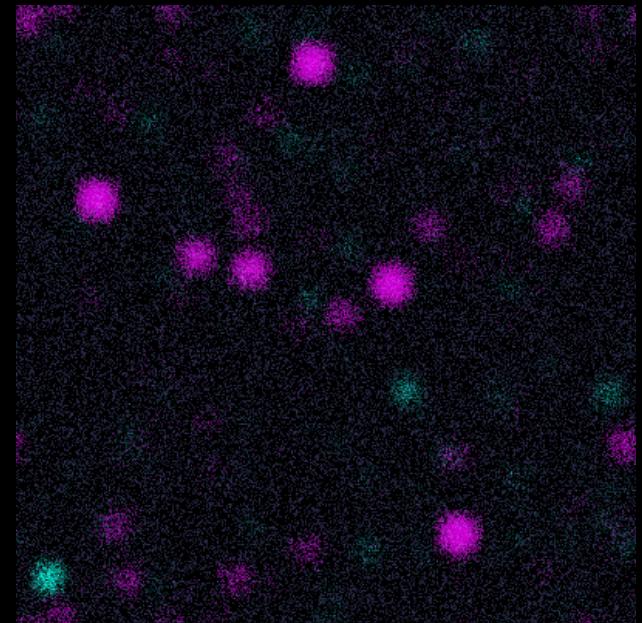
JWST (Illustris-TNG light cone)



Lynx (purple = AGNs, green=galaxies)



Athena (5" PSF, same area as Lynx)



We need to **find the first supermassive black holes** in the first galaxies detected by JWST, **trace their growth** from the seed phase, and shed light on how they **shape their host galaxies**.

Required sensitivities: $F_x=10^{-19}$ erg/s/cm²

~ 200× below *ATHENA* confusion limit.

Required observations: Wedding cake surveys

1-4 Ms deep fields to cover ~ 1 square degree

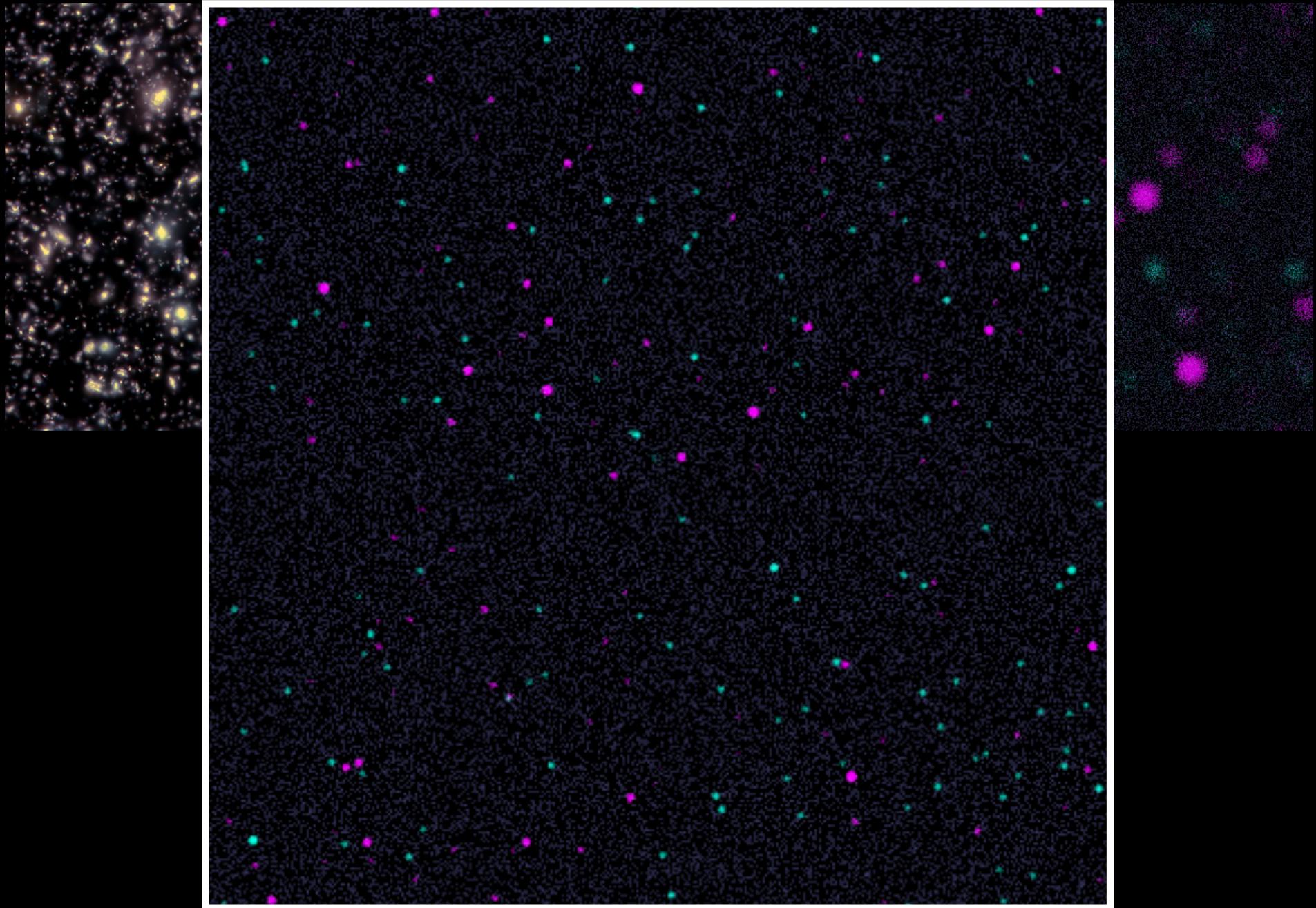
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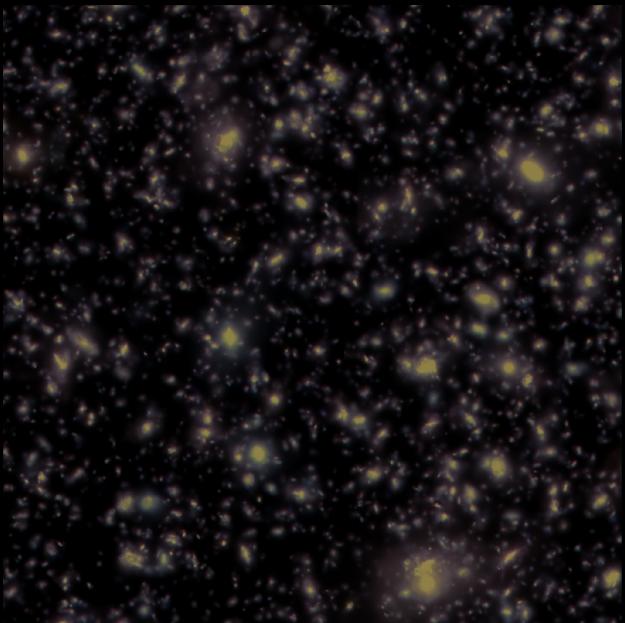
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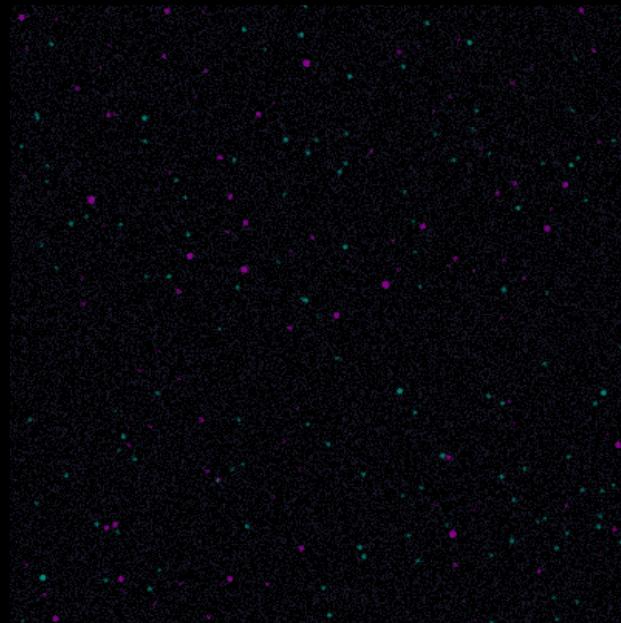
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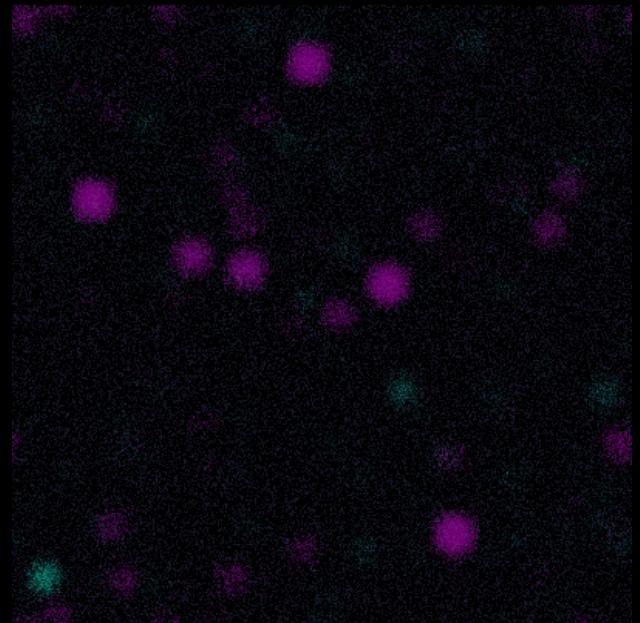
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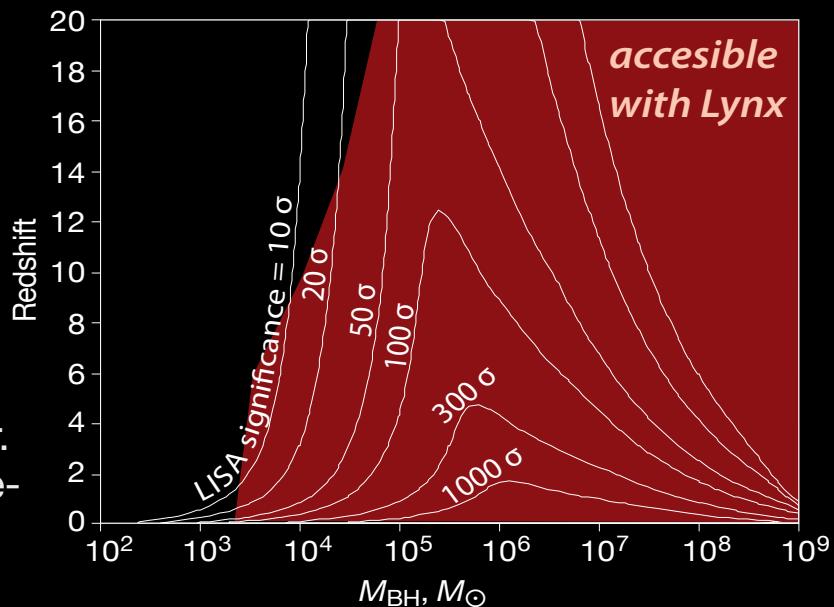


Athena (5" PSF, same area as Lynx)



Synergies with gravitational wave experiments:

- Similar parameter space is covered at high-z.
- *Lynx* is sensitive to black hole growth through accretion (dominant mode).
- *Lynx* can respond to high-significance LISA triggers of SMBH mergers at $z < 2$, localized to $1-10 \text{ deg}^2$ days before the merger. *Lynx* observations will establish how accretion proceeds in pre-merger BH binaries.



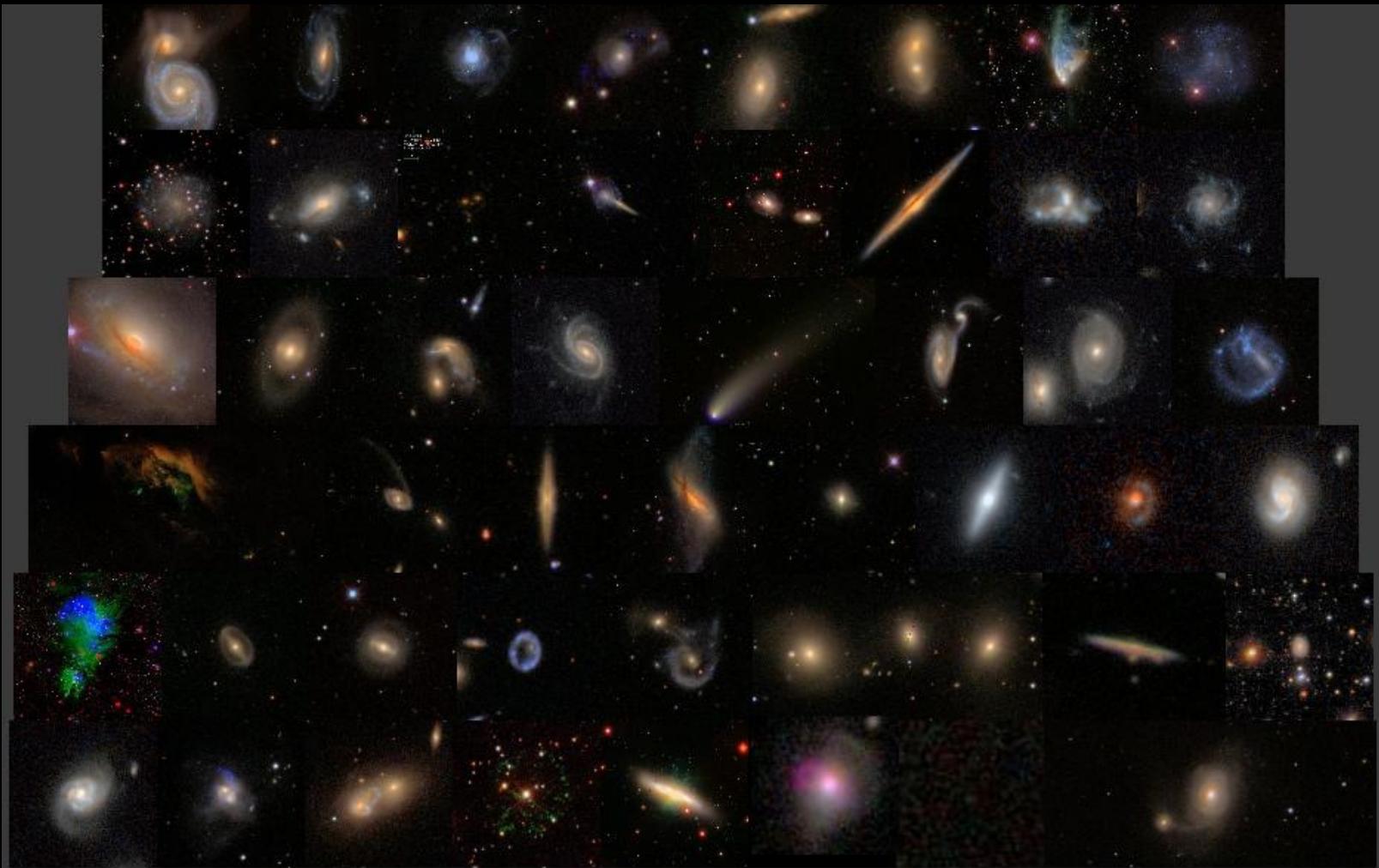
Advances in Galaxy Formation

SDSS: Clustering properties and metallicities

Galaxy Zoo: Morphologies

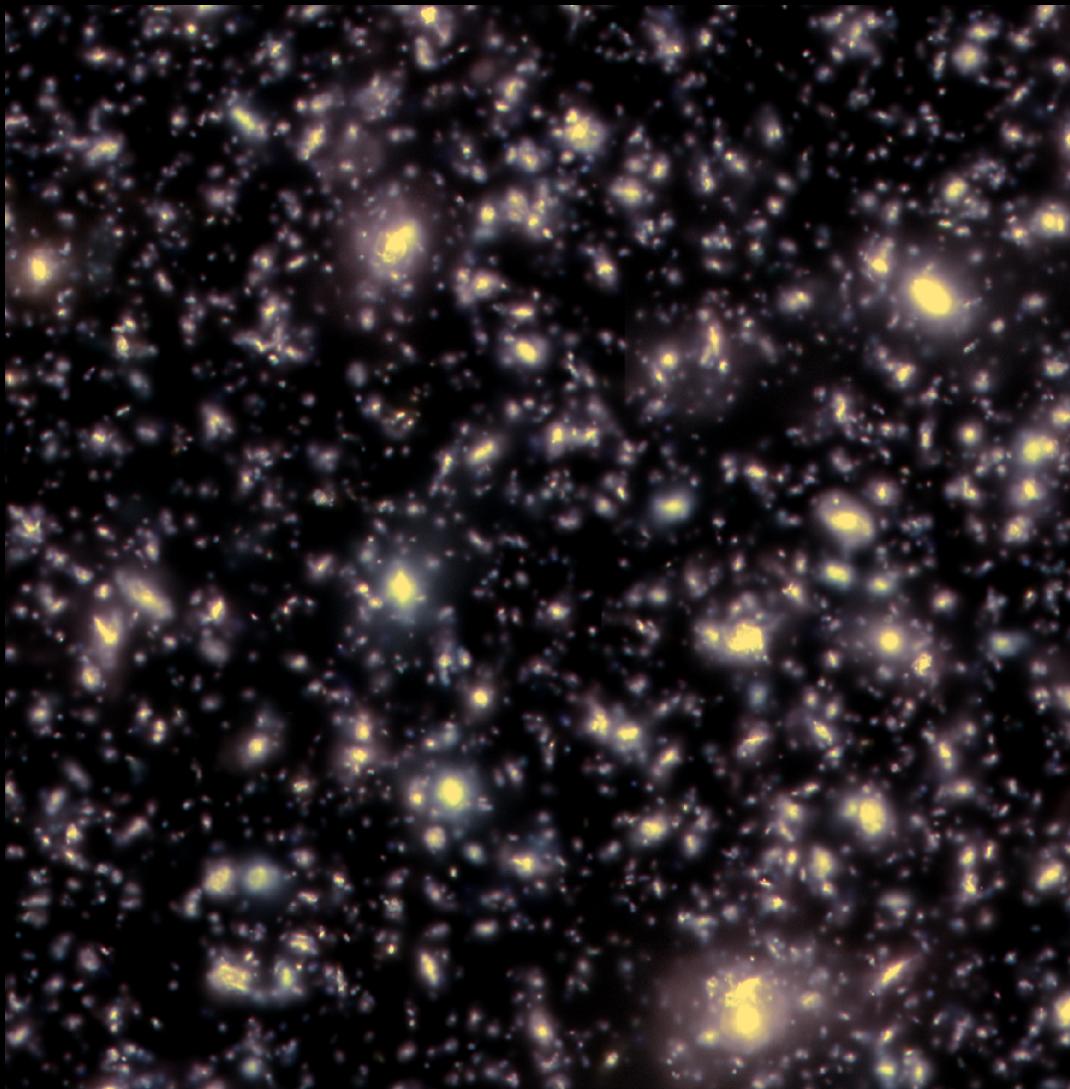
HUDF, Frontier Fields: High-z frontier

Composite image from Galaxy Zoo

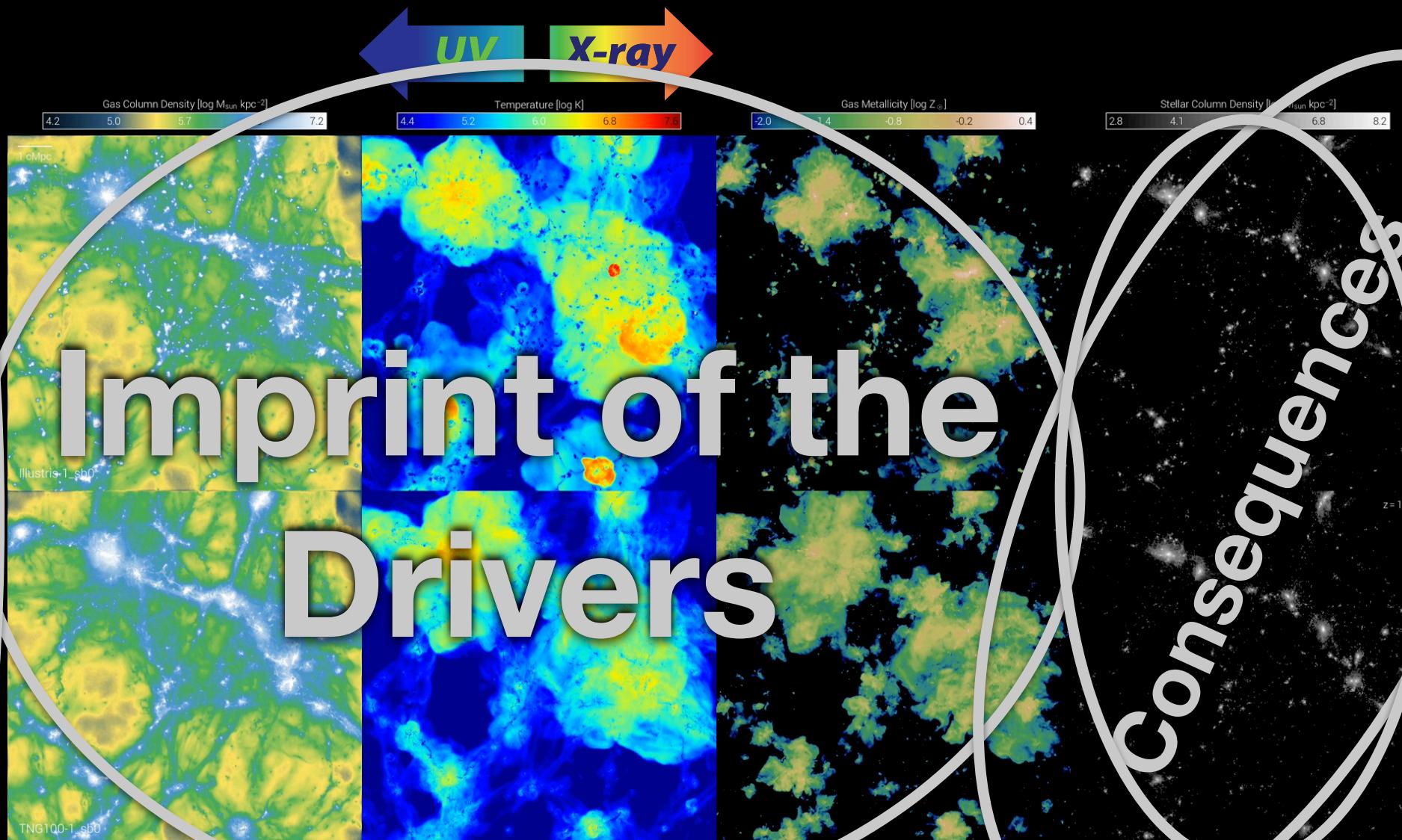


Advances in Galaxy Formation: JWST

Simulated $2' \times 2'$ deep fields:
JWST (Illustris-TNG light cone)



The Invisible Drivers of Galaxy and Structure Formation



Same numerics,
different physics

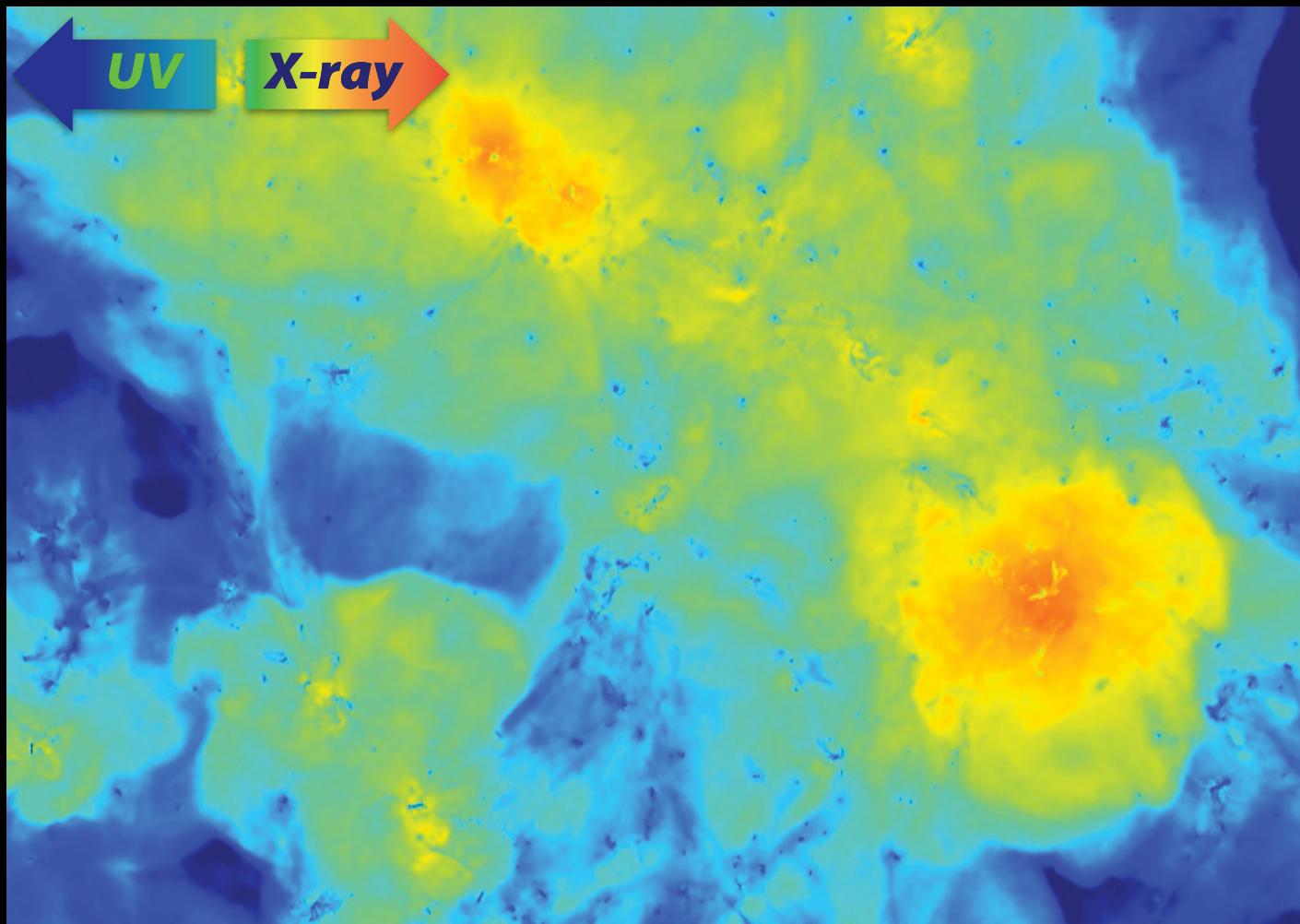
Consequences

Metals

Galaxies:
stellar mass

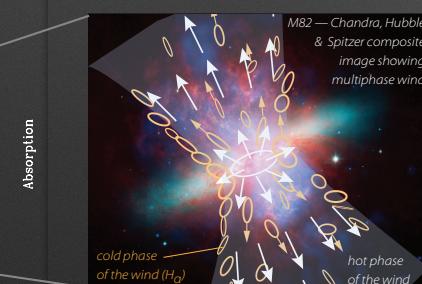
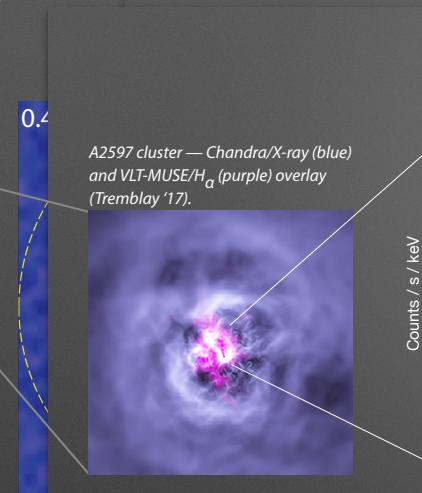
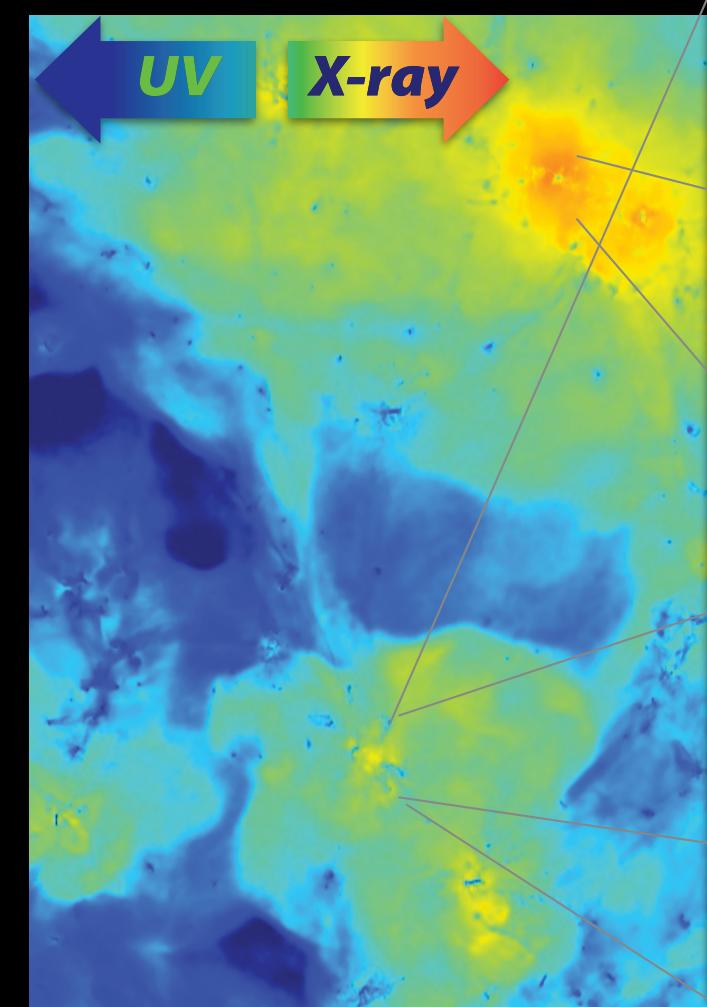
Indistinguishable
galaxies

The Invisible Drivers of Galaxy and Structure Formation



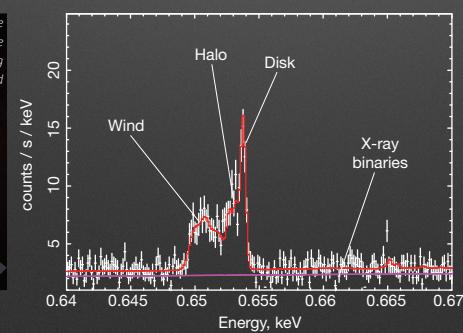
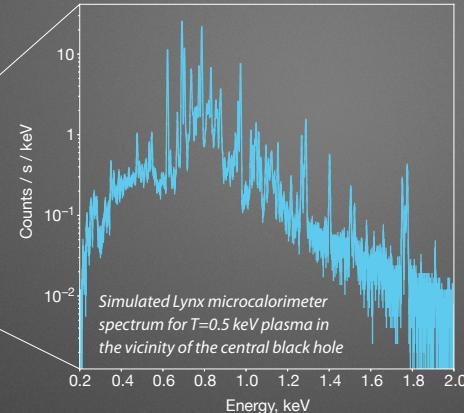
- Violent processes that produce and disperse large amounts of energy and metals into CGM drive the assembly, growth, and state of visible matter in cosmic structures.
- For galaxies $M > M_{\text{MW}}$, the baryonic component is heated and ionized to X-ray temperatures.
- Mapping this hot gas in CGM and the Cosmic Web and characterizing in detail all modes of energy feedback requires high resolution X-ray imaging and spectroscopy.

The Invisible Drivers of Galaxy and Structure Formation



Site

Feedback



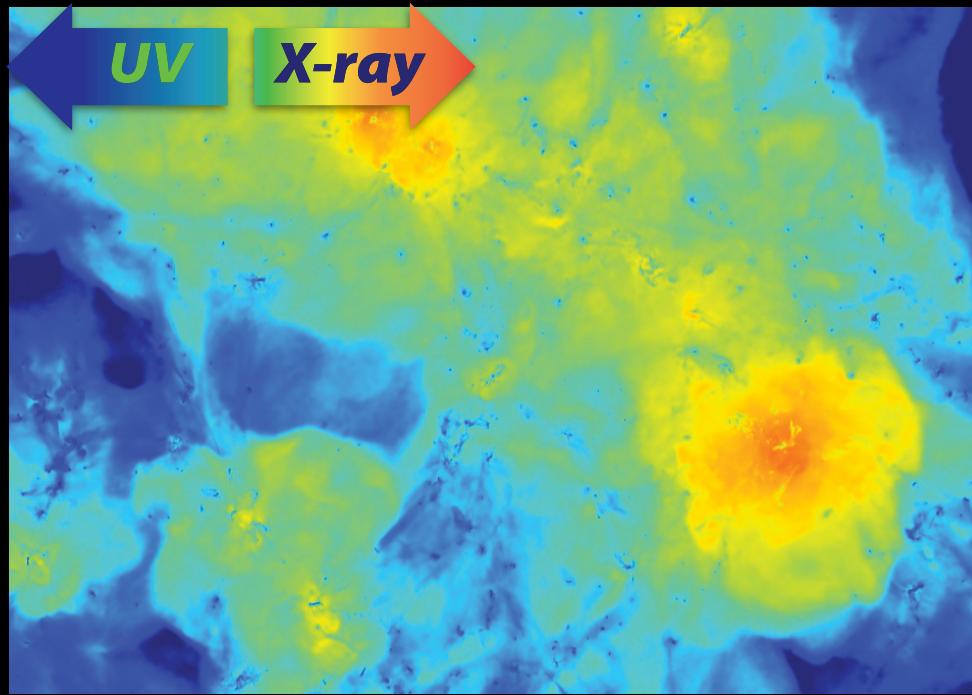
BH feedback:

- spectro-imaging of SMBH spheres of influence
- density diagnostics in AGN winds
- extended narrow emission line regions
- AGN-inflated bubbles in elliptical galaxies
- plasma physics

Galactic winds feedback:

- Spatially and spectrally resolve hot phase of galactic winds with 0.3 eV energy resolution microcalorimeter subarray

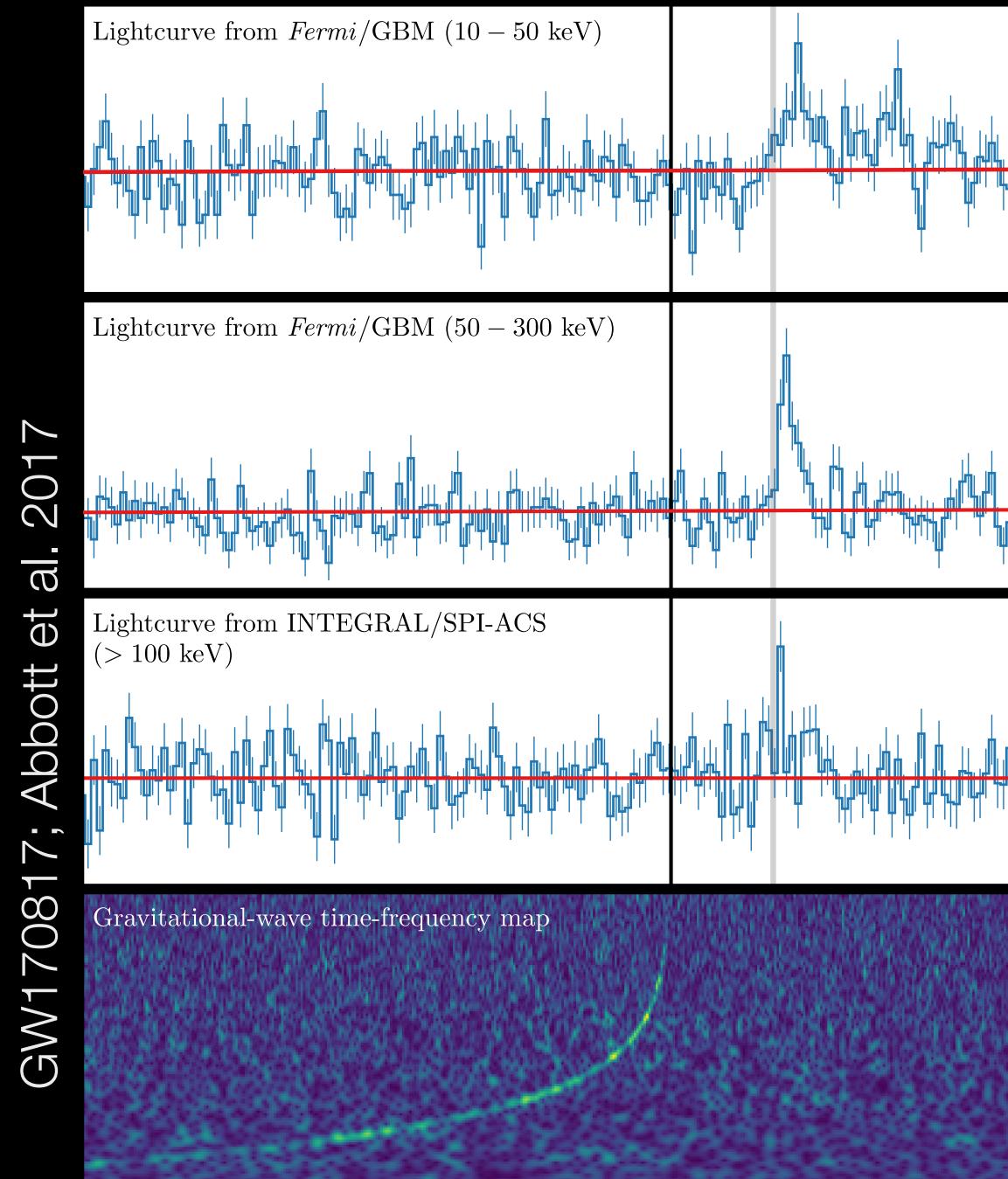
The Invisible Drivers of Galaxy and Structure Formation



Required capabilities and observations:

- Detecting and mapping low surface brightness continuum emission
- $R \sim 2000$ spectroscopy of extended sources on arcsecond scales
- High-resolution spectroscopy ($R \sim 5000$) of background AGN

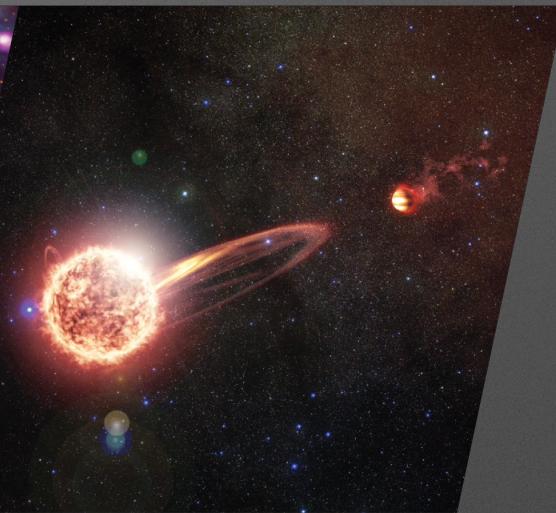
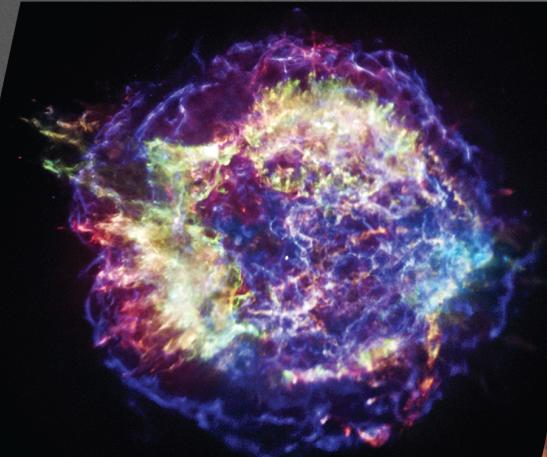
New Frontier: Multi-messenger Events



New Frontier: Habitable Planets



The Energetic Side of Stellar Evolution and Stellar Ecosystems



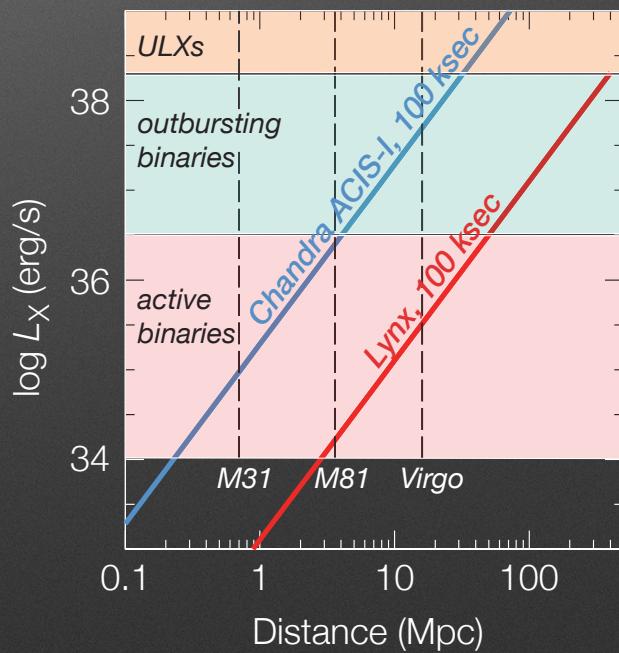
Endpoints of stellar evolution

SNRs:

- 3D maps of dozens of remnants, revealing explosion physics
- Understand how metallicity effects explosions by resolving the LMC & SMC remnants and establish parent SN types within the Local Groupy
- Find young neutron stars in MW by increasing sensitivity.
- Spectral studies of recent core-collapse SNe within ~ 10 Mpc to probe the circumstellar material —> evolution of massive stars

Stellar birth, coronal physics, feedback

Impact of stellar activity on habitability of planets



X-ray Binaries: XRB populations in dozens of nearby galaxies down to $L_X \sim 10^{34} - 10^{35}$ erg/s; binary evolution models; evolutionary paths to LIGO sources.

The Energetic Side of Stellar Evolution and Stellar Ecosystems

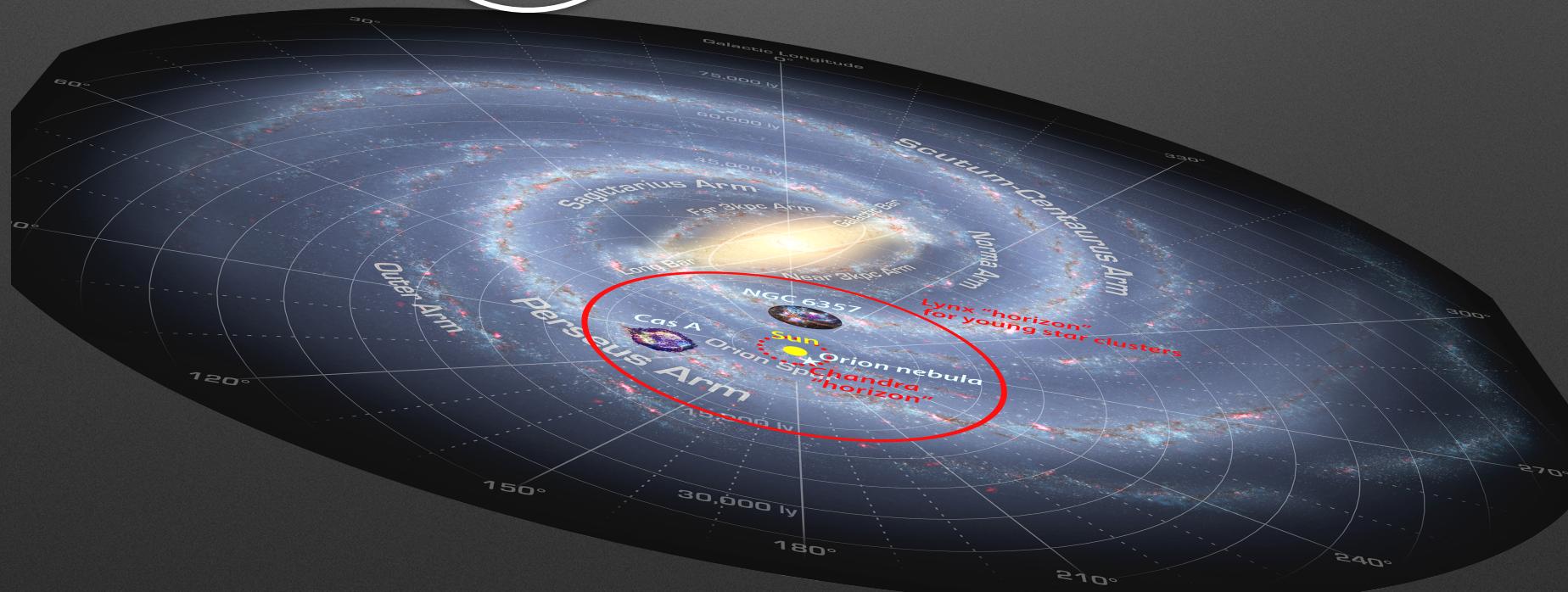


Endpoints of stellar evolution

**Stellar birth,
feedback**

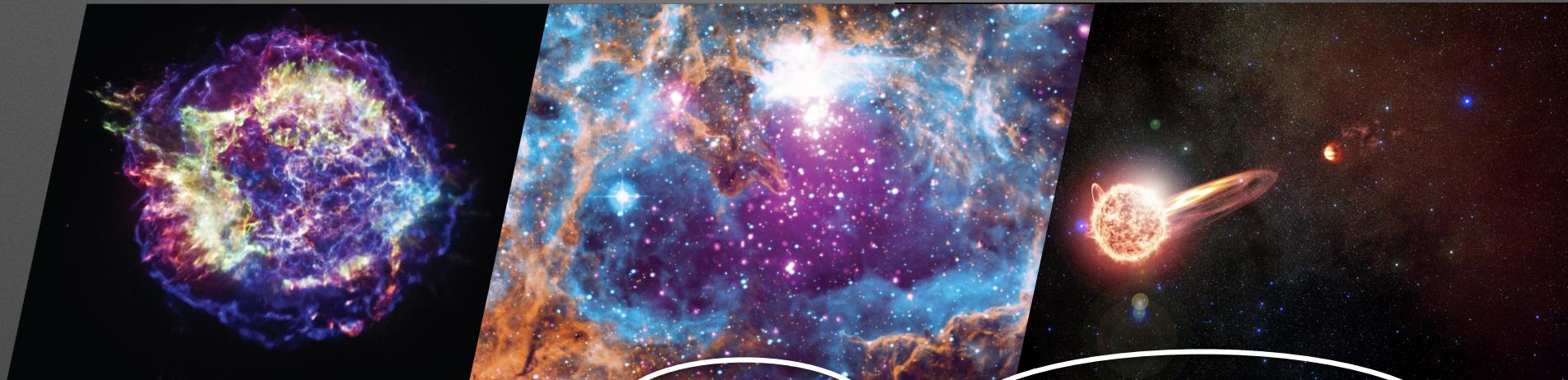
coronal physics,

Impact of stellar activity on
habitability of planets



X-rays from protostars; census of young star clusters; feedback from stellar winds and SNe.

The Energetic Side of Stellar Evolution and Stellar Ecosystems



Endpoints of stellar evolution

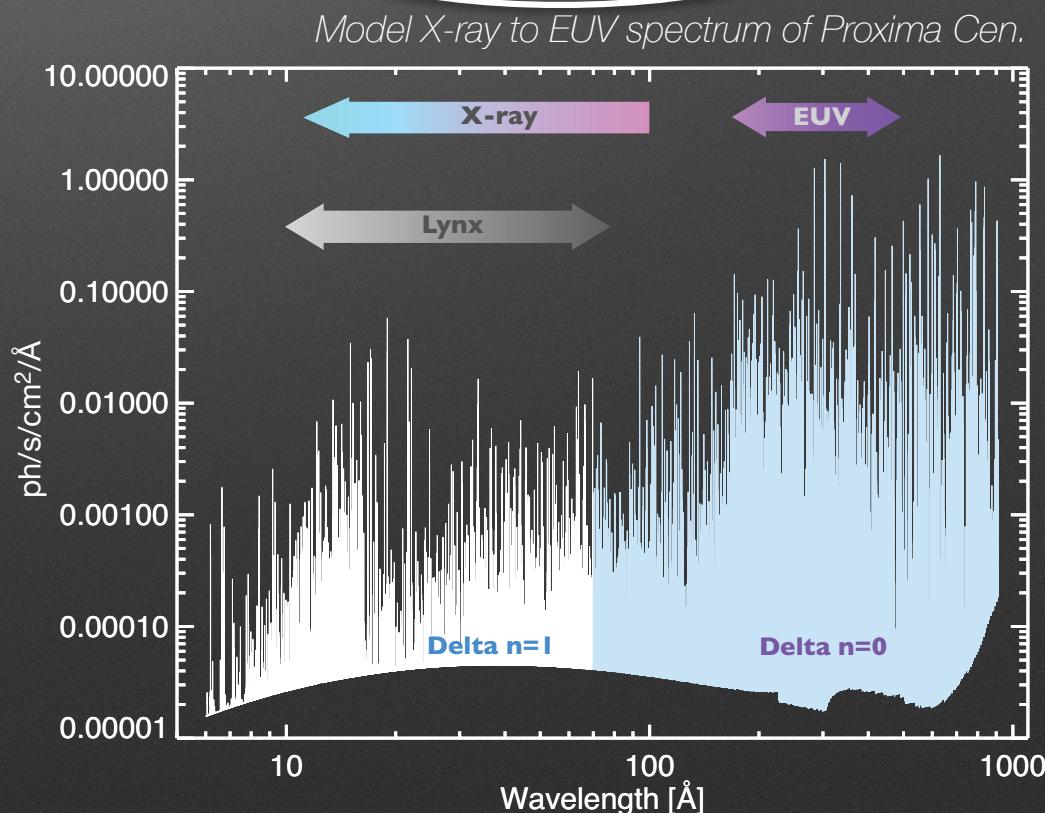
Stellar birth, **coronal physics,** feedback

Impact of stellar activity on habitability of planets

Grating observations to resolve triplet, satellite, and dielectric recombination lines from C, N, O, Ne, Mg, Fe (K, L, and M-shells) in stellar coronae.

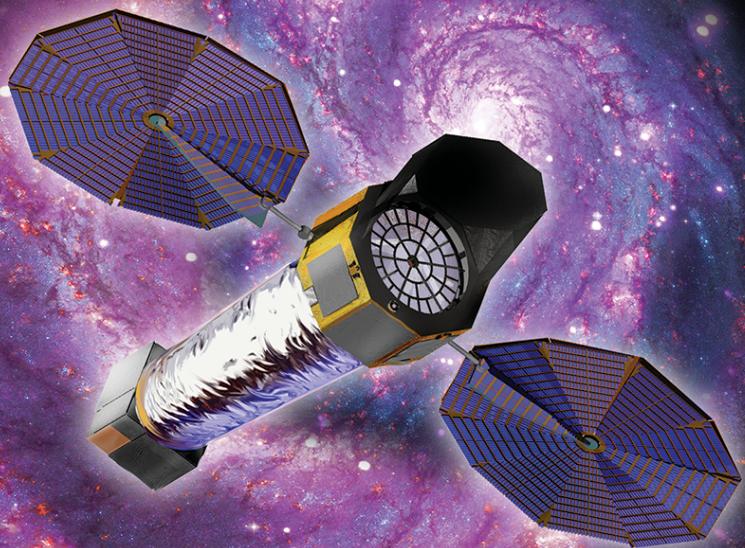
First precise diagnostics of T , n_e , velocities, and sizes of emission regions in stellar coronal structures.

Reaching the Orion Nebula for detailed studies of stellar coronae, covering the full range of stellar types and ages.



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LYNX

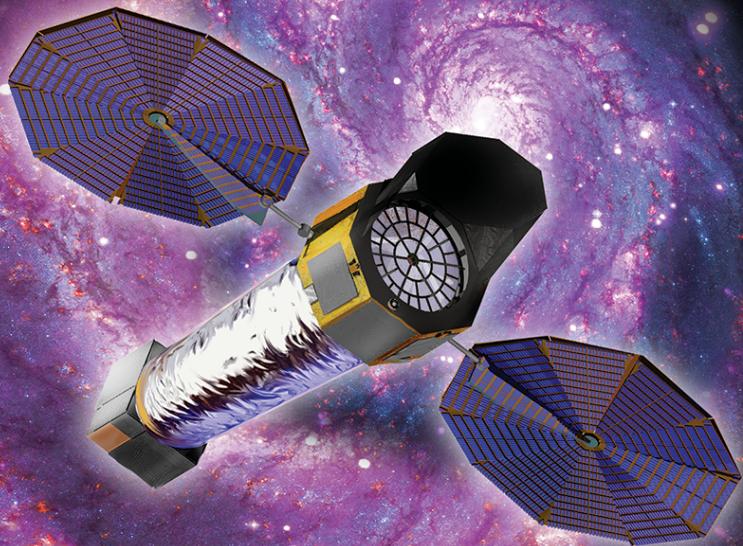


These science pillars require a mission like *Lynx*, with leaps in capability over *Chandra* and *ATHENA*:

- 50× increase in sensitivity achieved by coupling superb angular resolution with high throughput;
- 16× larger field of view for sub-arcsecond imaging, leading to a 800× faster survey speed;
- 10–20× higher spectral resolution for both point-like and extended sources.

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LYNX



Mirror Assembly

- Densely packed, thin, grazing incidence mirrors.
- Outer diameter of 3m and effective area $> 2 \text{ m}^2$ at 1 keV.
- 0.5" on-axis PSF (50% power diameter).
- Sub-arcsec PSF out to 10' off-axis.

High-definition X-ray imager

- Silicon sensors with $\sim 0.3''$ pixels, closely following the optimal focal surface. FOV $\geq 20' \times 20'$.
- $\Delta E \sim 100 \text{ eV}$ over 0.1–10 keV band.
- High frame rates to minimize pile-up.

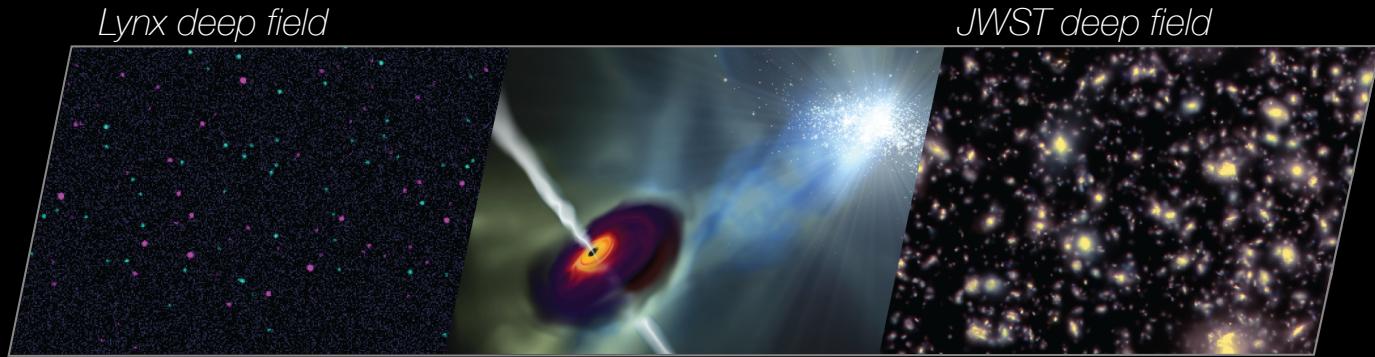
X-ray microcalorimeter

- Main array for non-dispersive spectroscopy with $\Delta E < 3 \text{ eV}$ over the 0.2–7 keV band and imaging with 1" pixels over a $5' \times 5'$ FOV.
- Subarrays are optimized for sub-arcsec imaging or 0.3 eV energy resolution

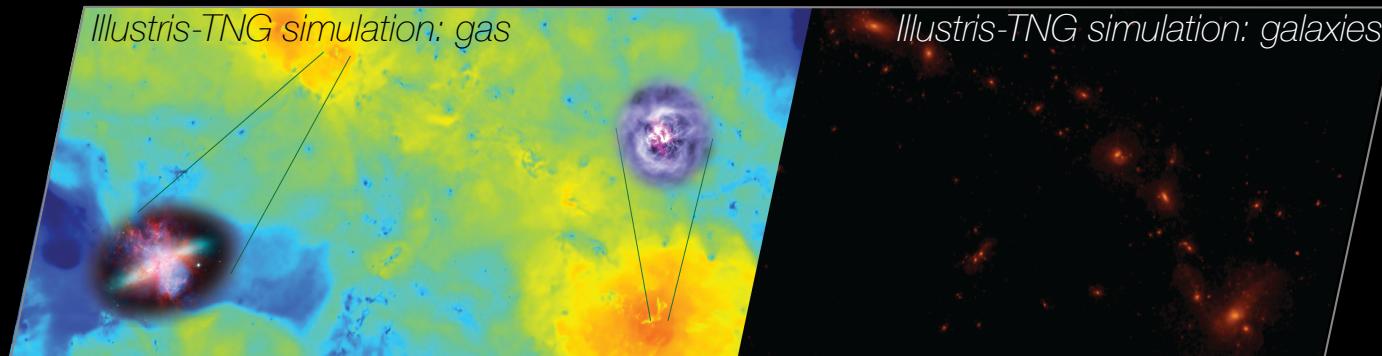
X-ray grating spectrometer

- Resolving power $\lambda/\Delta\lambda > 5000$
- Effective area $> 4000 \text{ cm}^2$ covering X-ray emission and absorption lines of C, O, Mg, Ne, and Fe-L.

The Dawn of Black Holes



The Invisible Drivers of Galaxy and Structure Formation



The Energetic Side of Stellar Evolution and Stellar Ecosystems

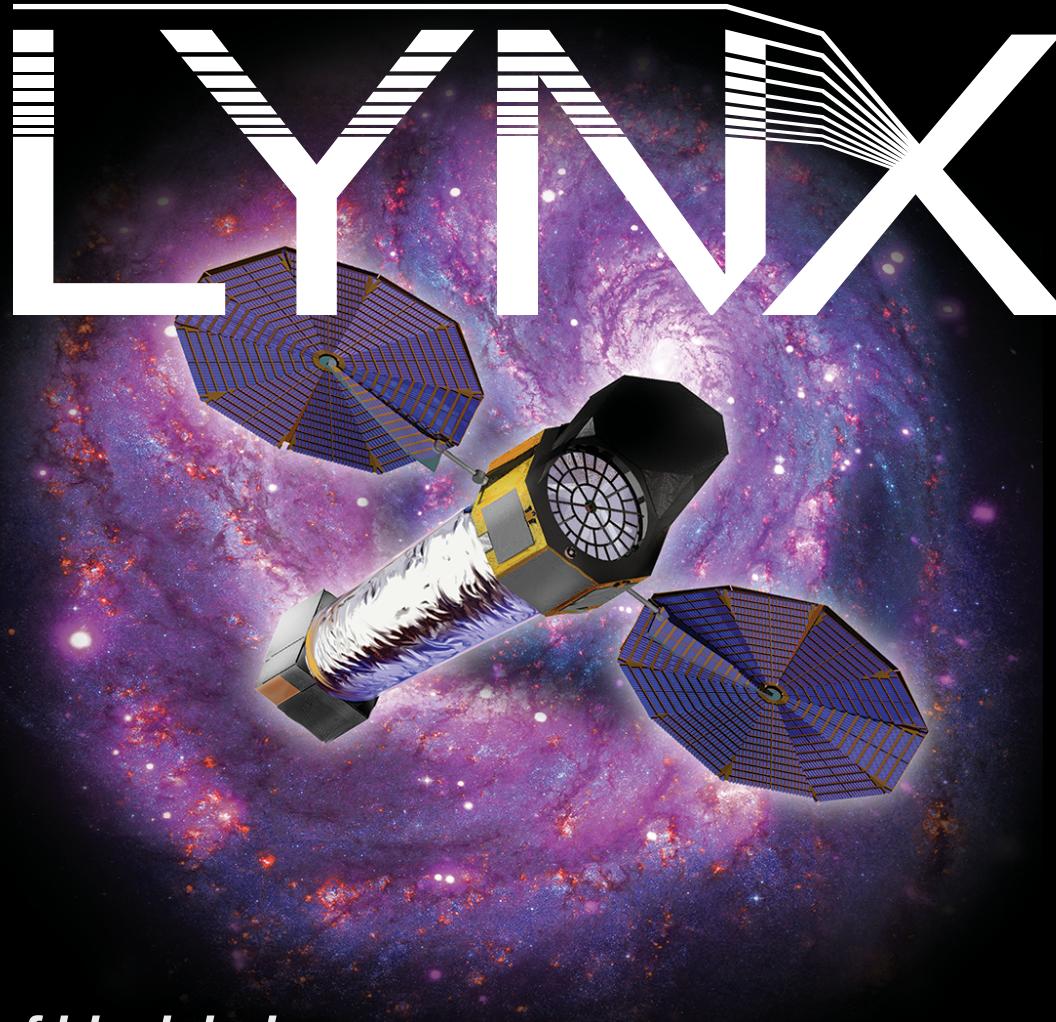


Endpoints of stellar evolution

Stellar birth, coronal physics, feedback

Impact of stellar activity on habitability of planets

X - R A Y O B S E R V A T O R Y



- to see *the dawn of black holes*,
- reveal *what drives galaxy formation and evolution*, and
- unveil *the energetic side of stellar evolution and stellar ecosystems*.

Come to the Lynx special session at 7:30 pm!